

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
HEW-06 OES-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 EB-08
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /172 W
-----110715 161000Z /15

R 160905Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO IS XF CH IN
SUBJECT: 31ST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (MAY 8-24) - FIRST
WEEK

REF: (A) GENEVA 7006, (B) GENEVA 7082

1. SUMMARY: SPEECHES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER AND
SECRETARY CALIFANO WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST WEEK'S PRO-
CEEDINGS. ASSEMBLY RE-ELECTED MAHLER TO FIVE YEAR TERM
WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE. MIDDLE EAST ISSUE SURFACED
PROMPTLY WHEN SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED REPORT OF WHA
SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT RECENTLY VISITED THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES (REF A). CHINA SIGNED NEW OPENNESS TOWARD
EXCHANGES WITH TECHNICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES. OPPONENTS
OF EXECUTIVE BOARD PROPOSAL TO REDUCE DOCUMENTATION
COSTS MUSTERED FORCES FOR SHOWDOWN IN COMMITTEE B NEXT
WEEK. USDEL WORKED WITH OTHERS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION
DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE WHO CONCERN OVER IMPACT ON WORLD
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BIO-MEDICINE OF RECENT CURTAILMENT IN SUPPLY OF NONHUMAN
PRIMATES. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF MAHLER'S 45 MINUTE ADDRESS INCLUDED
FOLLOWING: THERE MUST BE "SOCIAL CONTROL" OVER BURGEONING
HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TO PREVENT IT FROM DICTATING HEALTH
POLICIES. A "REAWAKENED" WHO MEMBERSHIP WANTS COHERENT

WHO AND NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN DEVELOPING A NEW BLUEPRINT TO ACHIEVE "HEALTH FOR ALL", WHO IS EMPHASIZING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. WHO'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE IS NOW, "THE GREATEST HEALTH BENEFIT TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT THE LOWEST COST." CONSERVATIVES IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND IN CLASSICAL ECONOMICS MUST GET INTO STEP WITH THE AIMS OF WORLD SOCIETY. "IF RICH COUNTRIES WANT TO REMAIN RICH, THEY WILL HAVE TO HELP POOR COUNTRIES BECOME LESS POOR THROUGH EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY." MAHLER URGED THE DELEGATES TO INTERCEDE WITH POLITICIANS BACK HOME IN ORDER TO IMPRESS ON THEM WHO'S POTENTIAL AS A MEANS OF AVERTING THE "DISASTER" WHICH WOULD RESULT IF WORLDWIDE SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS WERE TO FALL RAPIDLY FROM THEIR PRESENT "DIZZY HEIGHTS". MAHLER CONCLUDED WITH A DIRECT APPEAL TO WORLD POLITICAL LEADERS TO JOIN WHO IN BUILDING ON THE FACT THAT HEALTH IS ONE OF THE LEAST CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS IN THE WORLD, ONE THAT CAN BE USED AS A LEVER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EVEN AS A PLATFORM FOR PEACE.

3. FALLOUT FROM CALIFANO SPEECH CONTINUED TO BE SIGNIFICANT (REF B). IN ADDITION TO FURTHER HIGHLY FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS AND KEY MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS MADE APPROACHES

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FOR PURPOSE OF SEEKING US HELP IN ONE OR MORE OF THE PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS MENTIONED IN THE SPEECH. USDEL HELD PRIVATE MEETING WITH DR. MAHLER ON MAY 12 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.

4. MIDDLE EAST ISSUE RESUMED WHERE IT LEFT OFF LAST YEAR. ARAB DELEGATES WHO HAVE SO FAR ADDRESSED PLENARY INCLUDE IRAQ AND PLO OBSERVER (BOTH HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ON SUBJECT OF CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES), AND EGYPT, MOROCCO AND JORDAN (RELATIVELY RESTRAINED). SYRIA, LIBYA AND ISRAEL ARE ON SPEAKERS LIST FOR NEXT WEEK. SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED THREE DOCUMENTS ON HEALTH STATUS OF ARAB POPULATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT (REF A), A REPORT BY ISRAEL OUTLINING PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES AND CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORIES IN 1977, AND A SHORTENED VERSION OF UNRWA'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SUBJECT. DELEGATIONS BEGAN LOBBYING (SEPTELS). ISSUE IS LIKELY TO COME BEFORE COMMITTEE B TOWARD END OF SECOND WEEK.

5. CHINA'S DELEGATE STRUCK AN INTERESTING NEW NOTE IN HIS ADDRESS TO ASSEMBLY. HE INDICATED REVIVED CHINESE INTEREST IN MODERN SCIENCE AND IN PUSHING RAPID MODERNI-

ZATION. HE SPOKE OF INCREASED SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES VIA INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

6. DOCUMENTATION COST REDUCTION ISSUE (AGENDA ITEM 3.4) WILL COME BEFORE COMMITTEE B ON MAY 15. FRANCE, SPAIN AND COLOMBIA WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN ROUNDING UP DELEGATES TO OPPOSE EXECUTIVE BOARD PROPOSAL (WHICH US WILL SUPPORT). ON MAY 13 SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED DRAFT RESOLUTION WHOSE 27 CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE CANADA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, USSR, SPAIN, COLOMBIA AND VIETNAM. IT ESSENTIALLY CALLS FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATUS QUO.

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FRENCH DELEGATE, TO WHOM WE CONVEYED IN ADVANCE OUR (LOW KEY) POSITION, WARNED US THAT HE WILL BE TAKING VERY STRONG LINE BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO LANGUAGE QUESTION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

7. USDEL WORKED WITH DELEGATES OF OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES (INCLUDING SWEDEN, FRG, BRAZIL, UK, NIGERIA, EGYPT, POLAND) ON DRAFT RESOLUTION DRAWING ATTENTION TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR WORLD BIO-MEDICINE, INCLUDING VACCINE PRODUCTION, RESULTING FROM IMMINENT SHORTAGES OF CERTAIN NONHUMAN PRIMATES. DRAFT CALLS FOR MORE BREEDING COLONIES IN USER COUNTRIES, AND FOR CONTINUING EXPORT ON SHORT TERM BASIS OF REASONABLE NUMBERS TO MEET MOST URGENT NEEDS. WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING INDIAN DELEGATION

INFORMED. SORENSON

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